

THE JEWISH HERALD

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Israel Zangwill on Herzl.

At the memorial meeting held in the Great Assembly Hall, London, on Thursday, July 7, the day when Herzl was laid away to rest, Israel Zangwill, who was the principal orator, spoke as follows:

"This summer we had confidently expected to see our beloved leader upon this platform. This very night he might have been speaking to us. And this morning he was buried. Buried at the age of forty-four, in the prime of his princely manhood! But is there one of us who cannot see him upon this platform? He has not broken his word. He is with us, speaking to every heart; he will never leave us again. *Nicht gestorben weil unsterblich*—not dead because undying. Of Moses we are told that no man knew the place of his sepulchre. And who can say where Herzl will lie buried, since his living influence is everywhere? It could easily be traced, even in the withdrawal of the Athens Bill, anent which he gave evidence—the withdrawal which, by a cheering coincidence, comes to diminish the darkness of his funeral day. My friends, you cannot bury a great man. If you cannot bury a great man still less can you bury a great cause. Our opponents have, perhaps, imagined that Zionism would be buried in Herzl's grave. Of Zionism, too, it can be said, *Nicht gestorben weil unsterblich*. Herzl had from the first provided against the event we mourn tonight, just as he provided in his will that his body should some day be borne with us to Palestine. He knew too well that he might only gaze upon the Promised Land, and he has laid his hands upon the head of more than one Joshua, and filled them with the spirit of his wisdom to carry on his work. And though there will never arise one like unto him, though there is no one with his fiery energy, his magnificent

dash, his inspired impatience, yet our cause, as he said at the first Basle Congress, our cause is too great to rest upon an individual.

"And so he leaves behind him not only disciples but a Constitution. If some of the machinery he had bequeathed to us, constructed in the early stages of our movement, will be unworkable without him, the loss of him forces us more than ever to reorganize our institutions and to try to make up in system for what we have lost in genius. But the Congress will always retain a lasting creation of Herzl. *Nicht gestorben weil unsterblich*. Our Congress supplies a Jewish parliament, and our Jewish parliament will one day supply a Jewish State. No, Zionism is not buried in the grave of Herzl. Far more likely anti-Zionism will be buried there. Anti-Herzliism at least assuredly lies cold beside him. Death, which makes clear the great outlines of his life must silence his bitterest enemy.

"Think of the sacrifices this man made, who in the full tide of his literary popularity in the gay Austrian capital, in the flush of youth and success, put aside everything to take up the cause of his oppressed brethren, and found for reward his position in society lost, his plays hissed, his health broken, his motives questioned or jeered at, and his character besplashed with mud from every Jewish gutter. And yet never a word of complaint. On the contrary. 'I wish,' he said at a recent Congress, 'I wish our enemies could understand what a happiness Zionism is.' Yes, the happiness that comes of doing one's highest work.

"And think of the work he did—in those few brief years—in the teeth of all the practical men who have so long misgoverned our people and mishandled our problems. It seems only the other day since a black-bearded stranger knocked at my study door, like one dropped from the skies, and said, 'I am

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